

# Royal Report

*Royals  
Lead  
the  
Way*

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# Letter from the Superintendent

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## DEAR ROMULUS ROYALS,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I want to thank you for your continued support and share a brief reflection on the wonderful learning, leadership, and community moments we've celebrated so far, each one connected to the goals of our Romulus CSD Strategic Action Plan.

Our students continue to shine in academics and the arts. This fall, Royals performed at Area All-State, performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and prepared for our Mid-Level Musical and Winter Play. FFA members represented Romulus at the National FFA Convention, and middle school students built leadership skills at the Seneca County Leadership Summit at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Elementary students also launched our daily video announcements, demonstrating growing digital literacy and communication skills. Additionally, four fall sports teams earned NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete distinctions, an outstanding blend of academic and athletic achievement.

We are equally proud of the student-centered experiences that build character, connection, and pride. Our Modified Girls Volleyball team completed an undefeated season, and we celebrated Coach Damon Nicholson's 300th career win with the Romulus Varsity Girls Basketball team. The Sports Boosters also sponsored a Block Out Cancer theme night during our JV and Varsity basketball games, bringing our community together for a meaningful cause. Student Council led a successful Give Back Week to support local food pantries, and many students volunteered with their families over the Thanksgiving recess at the Seneca County United

Way Thanksgiving Dinner. The PTCC brought joy to the season with Polar Express Day, the Holiday Market, and treats for staff. These are all reminders of how community partnerships enrich our school.

This year also marks significant progress in our facilities and operations work. We are nearing completion of our capital project, including our new music suite and renovated auditorium, and the capital overlay project refreshed our gym floors with a vibrant Royals mascot. These improvements support safe, modern, and inspiring learning spaces for all students.

Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community members for making the first half of the year so successful. Your support, involvement, and pride in our school are what make Romulus such a special place for our Royals to learn and grow. The strong connections with our community create an atmosphere where students feel encouraged to do their best each day. As we look forward to the months ahead, we remain committed to empowering every student to thrive in learning and in life, grateful for all you do to help our Royals Rise.

**With Royal Pride,**

**Mrs. Jenn Hayden**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
**Romulus Central School District**





# Romulus Students Lead Participation in Finger Lakes Mosaic Collective

Romulus Central School seniors Orion Griffin, Adrianna Allen, Kadya Gamble, Nicholas Payton and Mariah Burew are participating in the Finger Lakes Mosaic Collective, an experiential learning program hosted at Finger Lakes Community College that prepares students for careers after their education. With five participants, Romulus CSD has the most students in the program of any participating school district.

"The program is an opportunity for high school students to not only learn professional skills, but to learn more about themselves," says Mrs. Jacqueline Tiermini, director of the Finger Lakes Mosaic Collective and the main instructor in the program. "They can discover what kinds of roles they want later in life, which will help them make informed decisions now."

Students in the program attend a course three days a week, where Mrs. Tiermini offers instruction and guidance on navigating the professional world. Each student also partners with a local organization to assist with a project. These students engage in routine correspondence with their assigned organization through email chains, meetings, and more.

"I feel like the program will give me an advantage after high school," said Griffin. "It has given me a lot of confidence."

Participants are also taking FLCC courses while on campus for dual enrollment credit, allowing them the opportunity to feel like and see themselves as college students.

"The Mosaic program at FLCC is a powerful extension of our district's Strategic Action Plan," says Mrs. Jenn Hayden, superintendent of the Romulus Central School District. The district's Strategic Action Plan, adopted in the summer of 2025, has a vision of inspiring learners to positively impact the constantly changing world upon graduation. "The experiences the program provides build a sense of confidence, autonomy, and belonging beyond the walls of PK-12 education, allowing them to explore career interests and career pathways they might not have considered before."



## ROYAL RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to Mrs. Caelin Kordziel on her induction into the Victor Central School Visual and Performing Arts Hall of Fame! Through her instruction, advocacy, and passion, Mrs. Kordziel has built a thriving music and performing arts program at Romulus CSD. Mrs. Kordziel was also the recipient of a "Clarence Award" from the United Way of Seneca County (see page 7).



During the last weekend of September, sixth-grader Cooper Merrill took first place in the junior showmanship competition at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. "My family has been in the dairy industry for over 80 years," said Merrill. "I just sort of hopped in. It felt so special to win." Way to go, Coop!



Congratulations to Kinsey Kime, Harley Wilkins, Dakota Richau-Heichel, and Matthew Seymour for being selected as Top of the Trade students for Quarter One at the Finger Lakes Technical and Career Center! These students have demonstrated high achievement and enthusiasm for their selected programs, as they empower themselves for success in future careers in our ever-changing world.





# Athletic Highlights

Congratulations to Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Mr. Damon Nicholson for recording his 300th career victory as a head coach! The team notched this history-making win with a dominant 51-21 victory over the Sodus Spartans on the road.

The girls modified volleyball team recorded a 12-0 undefeated season, with 51 sets won and only nine sets lost. The future is bright for the volleyball program at Romulus CSD!

Kinsey Kime was named Finger Lakes West Second Team All-League for Girls Soccer.

Libby Barbay was named Finger Lakes West Second Team All-League for Girls Volleyball.

The following teams received Scholar-Athlete Team distinction from the NYSPHSAA:

- Girls Volleyball
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Cross Country



## STUDENTS PRESENT AGRICULTURE INNOVATION POSTERS

Students in Mrs. Jami Thompson's class were able to choose an agricultural innovation they found interesting, and develop a presentation for their classmates in the form of colorful posters. Some of their topics included favorite snack foods like cotton candy or chocolate, or useful innovations like crayons. Not only was the project fun – it nurtured research and presentation skills students can draw on in their adult lives.



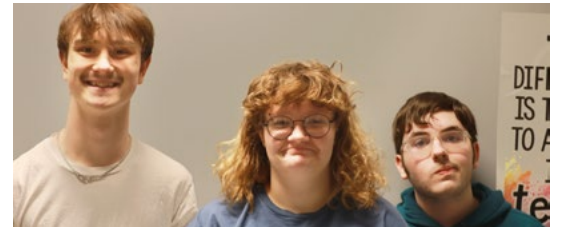
## Music and Arts Highlights

Five Romulus students were selected for NYSSMA Zone 2 Area All-State performances. Matthew Seymour and Kinsey Kime were selected for symphonic band. Irelynn Finn and Rachel Gillan were selected for mixed choir. Alyssa Mari was an alternate for choir. These student musicians were selected in the spring of 2025 after performing level 6 solos for an all-state judging panel.



The Romulus Encore Society graced the stage of the Romulus Central School Auditorium with two performances during the first half of the school year. November saw a whimsical and colorful production of *Seussical Jr*, produced and performed by middle-level students. December saw the high school production of *10 Ways to Survive the Holidays*, which served as a fun and witty introduction to the holiday season. Congratulations to all of our performers for their hard work, and we look forward to even more productions later this year.

Twelve Romulus students ventured to the New York State Theatre Education Association Student Conference in early January 2026 to spend a weekend learning about the performing arts from passionate experts in the field. Congratulations to Brian Whitelaw, who successfully auditioned for the lead role in the student-written play "Benny and the Waving Cat," and Scott Smith and Jackson Wasney for working together to create an artistic design that will be used in the branding of the 2027 conference.



## ROMULUS CHAPTER OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS 17 NEW MEMBERS

The Romulus Central School chapter of the National Honor Society is now 17 members larger. These new members were inducted the evening of Nov. 12 in the Romulus Central School Auditorium. The ceremony also included remarks from Mr. Jeff Felice, a former educator at Romulus Central School District.

Congratulations to Kari Albro, Elizabeth Barbay, Natalie Buisch, Brian Consolie, Brynn Finn, Tatiana Godwin, Olivia Haws, Ryan Horton, Isabelle Kuleszo, Roman Nearpass, Greyson Rath, Madylin Renckert, Scott Smith, Ellie Updike, Jackson Wasney, Emmanu-el Whitley, and Rosemarie Whitley for their inductions into the National Honor Society. They join the 10 previously inducted members of the National Honor Society, including chapter President Rachel Gillan, Vice President Jamie Ninestine, Secretary Abby Gravitte, and Treasurer Lauryn Werner.





### **SENECA FALLS TRACTOR SUPPLY DONATES CHICKS TO AGRICULTURE CLASSES**

Last fall, the Seneca Falls Tractor Supply donated chicks to Mrs. Jami Thompson's classroom for students in our agriculture classes to raise. The chicks in this flock included Starlight Green Egger and Ameraucana chicks. Both breeds are famous for their uniquely colored eggs: green and blue, respectively.



### **ROMULUS CSD HONORS COMMUNITY VETERANS**

The Romulus Central School District, in conjunction with the Romulus Parent-Teacher Community Connection, was thrilled to hold its first-ever Honor Walk for veterans in Romulus and its surrounding communities. The event featured performances by the school's student-musicians and a parade through the halls of Romulus Elementary School. It was a meaningful experience for our community veterans, their families, and the district's students and staff.





## Two Romulus CSD Staff Recognized with United Way “Clarence” Awards

Mrs. Caelin Kordziel and Mr. Ralph Walborn were selected for honors at the It’s a Wonderful Life Celebration, held in Seneca Falls on Dec. 13, 2025.

The Clarence Awards, presented by United Way of Seneca County, honor adult figures who embody kindness, integrity, and service towards young people in our communities. Nominations for these awards are only accepted from students who attend school in Seneca County. The United Way recognizes two recipients of the Clarence Award, and three Clarence Award honorees.

Mrs. Kordziel was nominated by two students, and is one of only two recipients of the 2025 Clarence Award. One of the students who nominated Mrs. Kordziel says: “Mrs. Kordziel ignited a passion and love for music in me. She sees the good in every person, and works tirelessly to let those parts of them shine.”

Mr. Walborn was also nominated by two students, and is one of three Honorees for the Clarence Award. One of the students who nominated Mr. Walborn said: “Mr. Walborn never fails to put a smile on my face.”

“The impact Mrs. Kordziel and Mr. Walborn have on our students and school community is significant,” said Mrs. Jenn Hayden, superintendent of schools. “Their nominations highlight the relationships they build, the support they offer, and the way they consistently demonstrate what it means to be a Royal through kindness, connection, and service.”



## ROMULUS CSD HOSTS SCHOOL SAFETY STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL TRAINING

Romulus Central School, in partnership with the national organization “I Love U Guys” Foundation, hosted a School Safety Standard Response Protocol training on Nov. 10. The event was organized by Deputy Grace Lipker, school resource officer at Romulus CSD, and Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES. Discussion centered on ensuring that school districts and surrounding communities are prepared and unified in their approach to keeping students and staff safe.

Representatives from neighboring districts and community entities took part in the training, including Penn Yan Central School District, Waterloo Central School District, Romulus Fire Department, Ovid Fire Department, Seneca County Sheriff’s Office, and Seneca County Emergency Management. Our district was thrilled to lead these important conversations.





**BOOK TASTING**

At the beginning of the school year, students in Ms. Michelle Lapp's and Mrs. Erica Murray's class expanded their appetite for literacy with a "book tasting" activity. Each table held a number of different titles in a variety of genres, encouraging students to explore their interests deeper or test the waters with a new genre.

# 19 Romulus Middle Schoolers Travel to Seneca County Leadership Summit

Ms. Katharine Smith and Mrs. Gina Lynch accompanied 19 Romulus students in grades six, seven, and eight to the Seneca County Youth Leadership Summit, held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges on Oct 20. They joined students from several school districts throughout the county in positive conversations about civic engagement, team building, mental health, and other important topics. They also were led on a tour of campus, and gained an early perspective on what college life will look like.



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